She would say "I got a knife" and "I'm gonna off you."

Serge took this very personally. Maybe it was the intensity of his Slav soul. According to him, when confronted this way he reacted by inviting Mildred to try. Serge eventually get rid of her, for alleged extortion that was probably a cigarette deal gone bad, and certainly at least partly a frame-up. Some tenants would do anything for a cigarette….

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Serge parked his Lada in front of the House. I remember watching for it when he was late for work. He was usually late. He seemed depressed about his life. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he had trouble getting up in the morning. He'd started a full-time job as manager at another group home. He was probably tired, and insecure. He lacked self-confidence. He figured he'd fail at his new job, like Russia. He was probably right.

Sometimes Serge parked in front of the funeral home. His girlfriend worked there. It was the same population. Occasionally some do-good organization used the premises at night. That was the same population too. Jack and some of the other tenants regularly crashed Alcoholics Anonymous for the free coffee and donuts. They could have joined, but crashing was more fun.